

Abstract of the Disclosure

A breakaway valve body for a peel-away introducer sheath. The valve body can be used in conjunction with a distally coupled peel-away introducer sheath and a proximally coupled flexible valve sleeve for restricting fluid flow from the introducer sheath when the valve body compresses the valve sleeve to a closed position. The valve can include a body scored or weakened to break along a predefined path in response to applied force. The valve preferably includes a first member and a second member movable relative to each other and having a pinch member therebetween for constricting a flexible valve sleeve placed between the first and second members. In one valve, the first and second members are pivotally disposed on hinges to allow the members to open and close about an inserted flexible valve sleeve and to pinch the sleeve with a pinch member. The valve preferably includes a proximal region of valve sleeve extending proximally past the valve pinch member to allow insertion of a catheter distal end into the valve sleeve proximal end while the more distal valve sleeve region is constricted in a closed position. The valve allows insertion of a catheter into the introducer sheath with minimal blood loss. The valve allows easy removal of the sheath from an inserted catheter by snapping the valve and pulling the halves apart, thereby tearing the peel-away sheath away from the catheter.

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By: Kathleen L. Beckley